

efforts to honor the 200,000 men and women who work in our Federal and State correctional institutions. Too often, American citizens overlook the importance of these men and women who must work with society's most hardened and dangerous criminals under difficult circumstances.

Today, I want them to know how much I admire and appreciate them for their willingness to face danger daily as they work to enforce our Nation's laws and ensure the safety of all American citizens. At this time, I also offer my condolences to the families and friends of the 11 correctional officers who died in the line of duty last year. I am deeply appreciative of their sacrifices and am sorry for their loss.

TAIWAN PRESIDENT CHEN SHUI-BIAN'S HISTORIC VISIT

Mr. ALLEN. Madam President, as President Chen Shui-bian of the Republic of China on Taiwan made his historic visit to the United States last month, I would like to congratulate him on his leadership and vision for Taiwan. President Chen became the second democratically-elected President in Chinese history little over one year ago, and his election was certainly a milestone in Taiwan's continued adherence to democracy and freedom.

I believe that President Chen's historic visit deserves the notice and respect of the U.S. Senate. Congress has long supported democratic development around the world, and Taiwan is no exception. Taiwan today is a notable model of rapid and successful democratic reform, as well as an important trading partner of the United States, having maintained amicable ties with our Nation for decades. What may also not be known is that Taiwan imports over 1.6 times as many goods from the United States as does the People's Republic of China. Taiwan is a vital economic partner for the United States.

Taiwan's economy offers its people one of the highest standards of living in Asia, including universal education, excellent medical care, and a well-developed social welfare policy. Moreover, Taiwan's Constitution is exemplary, guaranteeing full political freedoms and basic human rights to all citizens. As Taiwan continues its democratic development, President Chen and the people of Taiwan deserve our most sincere praise for their exemplary adherence to individual liberty and freedom.

In the future, Taiwan's continued achievements and development will reinforce its regional position and strengthen the good relationship between our two countries.

CHAMPLAIN COLLEGE, BURLINGTON, VERMONT

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President. I rise today to talk about a unique education program nestled in the hills of Burlington, VT. Champlain College is one of the many higher education institutions in my home State and it has distinguished itself as a leader in career-oriented education. Under the leadership of President Roger Perry, Champlain College provides its students with innovative distance learning and workforce development programs to build the skills of Vermonters. While I have long known of the quality offerings of Champlain College, I was very pleased to see a story in the Los Angeles Times recently about one program in particular that serves single parents on welfare who want to earn a college degree.

With the recent reform by the Federal Government of our Nation's welfare system, many individuals are seeking training that can lead to better jobs and ultimately to increased wages. In response to this growing need, an 11-year-old program at Champlain College aimed at moving single parents off welfare is receiving attention nationwide. The impressive statistics from this public-private partnership clearly indicate its success—less than 10 percent of those participating in the program drop out; most in the program earn a 2-year associate degree; and, many even go on to receive a 4-year bachelor's degree. According to President Roger Perry, more than 90 percent of the single parents who graduate from this program have not returned to the welfare program. This program is helping single parents break the welfare cycle and show their children the importance of getting a college degree as a step toward supporting themselves and their family. Its success also reinforces Champlain College's role in Vermont as a leader in career-oriented education. I commend President Roger Perry, the faculty and staff, and especially the students for continuing to make Champlain College a model for quality higher education.

I ask unanimous consent that the following article from the May 13, 2001 issue of the Los Angeles Times be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the article was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Los Angeles Times, May 13, 2001]

(By Elizabeth Mehren)

VT. COLLEGE SINGLES OUT PARENTS EDUCATION: UNIQUE CURRICULUM THAT HELPS WELFARE MOTHERS GET JOB TRAINING HAS BECOME A NATIONAL MODEL

BURLINGTON, Vt.—What galls Dulcie Christian is when her Champlain College classmates say they didn't get their papers done because they were out drinking all night.

"I think, well, I was up all night with two sick kids and I did get mine done," Christian said. "Plus, I did the laundry."

As a participant in an unusual state-supported college program geared to move single parents off welfare, Christian, 33, is well aware of how her life diverges from the conventional undergraduate path. There's no room for wild parties. And instead of spring breaks in Jamaica, Christian uses time off to double up on hours working at the local Social Security office. Her old Subaru just better hold itself together, because there's no deep-pockets daddy to bail her out. More than once, in a pinch, Christian has brought Justin, 9, or Shelby, 5, to class with her.

FEWER THAN 10% DROP OUT

For Christian and the 60 or so other single parents enrolled at Champlain this semester, the challenges are immense. And yet, said program director Carol Moran-Brown, "The retention rate for these single parents is higher than the school average. You wouldn't believe the motivation."

With federal welfare reform providing an impetus for recipients to train for better jobs, the 11-year-old program at this private college has emerged as a national model.

Typically, college officials say, fewer than 10% of these students drop out; most in the program earn a two-year associate of arts degree and many go on for a four-year bachelor's degree. More than 90% of the single-parent graduates have not returned to welfare rolls, said Champlain College President Roger H. Perry.

Those are strong indicators, Perry said, that the program is achieving its goal of helping to shatter the cycle of single parents living off government assistance.

State money pays the salaries of Champlain's two full-time social workers devoted to single-parent students—almost always women, through the occasional single dad enrolls. State subsidies also fund the day care that enables these parents to take classes at the 1,400-student campus. The program is labor intensive, with workshops and weekly social hours at which single parents trade everything from outgrown snowsuits to names of kid-friendly professors.

For a group often made up of first-generation college students, social workers focus on time and stress management, as well as study skills. The students and social workers often meet daily, discussing what's going on academically—and also addressing such outside issues as abusive boyfriends, nasty landlords and sick babies. Budgets are a big topic, as many single parents struggle to get by on welfare payments while attending the four-year college. When it all becomes too much, "that's when I show up at their door, saying, 'I'm concerned about you, what's going on? Can I lend a hand?'" social worker Felicia Messuri said.

Champlain is a career-oriented school where most students easily step into jobs upon graduation. But Moran-Brown said the 97% job placement rate in the single-parent program stands out. A state study is underway to determine how well the single-parent graduates do over time—and how their experience compares to single parents who do not finish college.

Last year, Champlain received \$96,000 in state money to run the program. An experimental seven-year federal waiver allowing Vermont to use special support funds for the single-parent college program expires in June. Eager to continue the program, the state Legislature passed a measure allowing the state's social welfare agency—Prevention, Assistance, Training and Health Access—to allocate discretionary funds for single parents in college.

At Champlain, single-parent students pay full \$10,000-a-year tuition. But they are eligible for grants and loans. Under state rules,

their welfare checks are not in jeopardy if they also hold down jobs.

When state supplements for transportation, caseworker salaries and incidentals are factored in, supporting each single-parent college student costs about \$500 per year above the normal welfare allotment, Moran-Brown said. "It's cheap," she said.

PARENTS AND KIDS DO HOMEWORK TOGETHER

In Vermont, an unemployed single parent with one child usually receives about \$557 each month, she said.

Noting that the endeavor benefits the state and students alike, PATH's deputy commissioner, Sandy Dooley, said her office views the single-parent college program as "a work-force development strategy" that could easily be replicated elsewhere.

For 23-year-old Cindy Sarault, it was dissatisfaction with a \$5.65-an-hour job as a grocery clerk that pushed her to study accounting at Champlain. Now she and her 5-year-old daughter, Brooke, often do homework together.

Like Sarault, classmate Heidi McMann, 21, got pregnant as a high school senior. After two years as a low-wage office assistant, McMann signed on at Champlain to study computer networking.

"Partly it was about getting somewhere in life, so I could get a decent job," she said. "But also I wanted Taylor, my daughter, to learn from me, not just see me working in dead-end, low-wage positions forever."

Only a few miles from campus, in the small apartment she shares with her two children, Christian agreed that a big payoff is "setting an example of how important school is."

As the first member of her family to graduate from high school, Christian said it never crossed her mind to continue her own education. "I thought college was for people who can write papers," she said.

Then someone mentioned the single-parents program at Champlain. She tried a class and liked it so much she quit her clerical job. To the horror of her working-class parents, she went on welfare and sought out state child-care subsidies.

Soon Christian was set on a career in social work, and earning a 3.97 grade point average. Graduation is a year away, and Christian has a job lined up at the Social Security Administration. She said that after juggling school, a job and two kids, she is unfazed by the prospect of paying off college debt of at least \$25,000.

For her, the biggest obstacle has been "making it through the tough times, when the money is short and your temper is short because you're worrying about the money, and the kids have problems at school and you have problems at school. You just want to crawl off somewhere. But you can't."

"I DO THINK I'M BREAKING THE CYCLE"

At school, Christian said, she talks about her kids constantly. At home, she talks about school. Better yet, her kids see her hunkering down with a book, and it makes them want to do the same. When they complain that they don't like a teacher, Christian says, guess what, she doesn't like all her professors either. Then they all do their homework together.

"So I do think I'm breaking the cycle," Christian said. "It feels great."

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Wednesday, June 6, 2001, the Federal debt

stood at \$5,669,404,114,473.96, five trillion, six hundred sixty-nine billion, four hundred four million, one hundred fourteen thousand, four hundred seventy-three dollars and ninety-six cents.

One year ago, June 6, 2000, the Federal debt stood at \$5,647,514,000,000, five trillion, six hundred forty-seven billion, five hundred fourteen million.

Five years ago, June 6, 1996, the Federal debt stood at \$5,139,284,000,000, five trillion, one hundred thirty-nine billion, two hundred eighty-four million.

Ten years ago, June 6, 1991, the Federal debt stood at \$3,494,333,000,000, three trillion, four hundred ninety-four billion, three hundred thirty-three million.

Fifteen years ago, June 6, 1986, the Federal debt stood at \$2,052,917,000,000, two trillion, fifty-two billion, nine hundred seventeen million, which reflects a debt increase of more than \$3.5 trillion, \$3,616,487,114,473.96, three trillion, six hundred sixteen billion, four hundred eighty-seven million, one hundred fourteen thousand, four hundred seventy-three dollars and ninety-six cents during the past 15 years.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

POLSON HIGH SCHOOL "WE THE PEOPLE" GROUP

• Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, on April 21–23, 2001 more than 1200 students from across the country came to Washington, D.C. to compete in the national finals of the "We the People . . . The Citizen and the Constitution program." I am proud to announce that one of the classes that competed was from Polson High School in Polson, MT.

The students that participated are: Curt Bertsch, Luke Bradshaw, Brad Briney, Amy Herak, Jackie Johnson, Ray Kneeland, Mindy Koopmans, Maggie Liebschutz, Tim Mains, Levi Mazurek, Ashley Miedinger, Joey Moholt, Cuinn Morgen, Nolan Mowbray, Toby Nelson, Kevin O'Brien, Kati O'Toole, Becky Owen, Stephen Pitts, Jeri Rafter, Kate Tiskus, Luke Venters, and Jason Wies.

I would also like to recognize, their teacher, Bob Hislop. Bob brings students to the national competition almost every year; his efforts have been a major asset to Polson High School and the State of Montana.

For the students involved, the national competition was the culmination of months spent studying the Constitution. It lasted three days, and was modeled after a Congressional hearing. Students were the "witnesses," and they made oral presentations before a panel of judges—the "committee." Afterwards, the judges asked questions designed to probe each competitor's knowledge of several different Constitution-related categories.

In addition, the Polson High group got an opportunity to meet members of

Congress and visit sites of historic and cultural significance in Washington, D.C. The competition may have been the highlight, but for most students the trip itself was an educational and exciting experience.

The "We the People" program is directed by the Center for Civic Education, and it has been extremely successful. Several studies show that students who participate in We the People are substantially better informed about American Politics than those who do not. They are also more likely to register to vote, be more confident in their rights as citizens, and be more tolerant of other's viewpoints.

Let me again congratulate the Polson High group for their hard work. Montana is proud of them. •

J. WESLEY WATKINS III

• Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, it is with a feeling of deep regret that I bring to the attention of the Senate the death of my friend, J. Wesley Watkins III. He died on Monday, June 4, at George Washington University Hospital. He was 65 years old and was a victim of cancer.

Wes and I were classmates at the University of Mississippi. As a matter of fact, we were cheerleaders for the Ole Miss football team in 1956–1957, and I succeeded him as head cheerleader in 1957.

During the 1960's Wes became actively involved in the effort to extend all the benefits of citizenship to African Americans. He was a leader in our State in this cause, and he demonstrated great courage and determination.

He had an engaging personality, a winning smile, and he loved people. It was always a pleasure to be with him. He truly will be missed by his many friends. I'm glad I was one of them.

His hard work to assure equal rights and help make a difference in the lives of others who needed help is described in a newspaper article about his death. I ask that a copy of the obituary that appeared on Wednesday, June 6, in the Washington Post be printed in the RECORD.

The obituary follows:

J. WESLEY WATKINS III, 65, DIES; CIVIL LIBERTIES LAWYER, ACTIVIST

(By Bart Barnes)

J. Wesley Watkins III, 65, a Washington-based lawyer who specialized in civil rights and civil liberties issues in a career that spanned almost 40 years, died of pneumonia June 4 at George Washington University Hospital. He had cancer.

At his death, Mr. Watkins was a senior fellow at the Center for Policy Alternatives and founding director of the Flemming Fellows Leadership Institute, a program that assists and trains state legislators on such issues as family and medical leave, community reinvestment and motor-voter registration.

He was a former director of the American Civil Liberties Union of the National Capital